

Ike Jibes Senators on Budget

By Drew Pearson

President Eisenhower tweaked Republican Senators at a private luncheon recently for blocking some of the budget cuts they clamored so loudly for. As fast as extravagances can be weeded out of the budget, Ike chided, "they tell me you fellows try to keep them in."

Ike confessed to the economy-minded Republicans that he was "just beginning to see the justification" for many Federal expenses. He firmly added, however, that they would have to get on top of Government operations in order to cut costs. But it will be a tough job, he predicted, to find the places and do it.

The President started off the luncheon by saying he knew the Senators got tired of talking shop. Then he turned to Senator Bourke Hickenlooper (R-Iowa) on his right and got into a discussion of pheasant shooting in Iowa. This brought up the question of storing the downed pheasants, and Senator Henry Dworshak (R-Idaho) cracked: "Do you still have Harry's deep freeze?"

The President ducked slightly at this reference to the deep freeze that Harry Vaughan got from a Wisconsin lobbyist for Mrs. Truman. However, Senator Ed. Thye (R-Minn.) soon got the conversation off trivialities and onto Eisenhower's controversial Secretary of Agriculture. The Minnesota chicken-farming Senator told about a speech he had made on the Senate floor, slightly critical of Secretary Benson but at the same time retorting "the impression the Democrats are trying to make that the cattle drop is the result of the Republicans."

The President said the fundamental difficulty was that we had the largest cattle population we had ever had.

As for his Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Eisenhower declared that every time he saw Benson he was impressed by his tremendous sincerity.

The President acknowledged, however, that it takes more than the right program and that the GOP must present it to the people so they understand what has been done.

Meanwhile, the President indicated that he has plenty of problems to go around.

White House Briefing

Exactly what happened inside the White House when a group of congressional leaders were briefed on the international situation has had the world guessing ever since. Just why did Senators emerge from the White House to pronounce the state of the world "grim?"

Briefly here are the nonsecurity highlights of what the congressional leaders were told:

1. The chief friction point is Berlin. Intelligence Chief Allen Dulles, brother of the Secretary of State, warned that the Communist Party might try to "squeeze us out of Berlin this spring. Dulles could not predict whether they would try to choke us off with another blockade or send East Germans into the West Sector to stage serious riots. However, he warned that trouble was coming. Meanwhile, the Air Force has a master plan ready for another Berlin airlift to be used at the drop of the red flag.

2. Drive in French Indo-China. The congressmen were told that the Kremlin was likely to hit the west in several places at the same time, and one of these, according to Allen Dulles, is French Indo-China. Russian and Chinese leaders, he said, had been conferring on this recently.

General Bradley, however, contended the Chinese didn't have a large army on the Indo-Chinese border, though he said guerillas and supplies did seem to be pouring into Indo-China. As a countermove Dulles urged that American supplies be stepped up to aid the French. The French, he said, were asking for a 5-year plan during which we would send half a billion dollars worth of supplies each year to Indo-China.

This brought an exclamation of surprise and incredulity from Sen. Alex. Wiley (R-Wis.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Million-Man Army

3. A Communist drive on Korea, General Bradley reported, was not to be discounted. The Chinese are using a new rotation plan and have put two new divisions in the front lines. Unfortunately, lifting the embargo around Formosa hasn't drawn any Chinese troops out of Korea to defend the mainland

opposite Formosa. The Chinese Communist force in Korea remains one million men.

On the other hand, the United Nations has 10 percent more American troops in Korea today than on January 1. The reason, Bradley said, is because other U. N. units had to be rotated. Any big U. N. drive in Korea, the Congressmen were warned, would cost us total casualties of around 50,000 men.

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